

EUPITHECIA PHOENICEATA (RAMBUR) AND *LITHOPHANE LEAUTIERI* (BOISDUVAL) IN SUSSEX.—In August 1973, I ran my m.v. trap on two week-ends at Aldwich Bay, Bognor Regis. On each of three nights when it was operating, August 9th, 11th and 17th, I noted some half dozen *Eupithecia phoeniceata* were attracted. This estate has a large amount of *Cupressus macrocarpa* as matured trees, and *Lithophane leautieri* is plentiful there at light in early October.—RONALD P. PICKERING, 4 St Mary Abbot's Terrace, Kensington, W14 8NX.

Obituary

JOHN S. TAYLOR 1900-1973

Born in Londonderry in 1900, J. S. Taylor entered Edinburgh University in 1921, where he studied three years for the degree of M.A. In 1921 he read British History, Zoology and Political Economy, obtaining certificates in all three. In his second year he read and obtained certificates in Moral Philosophy and Scottish History, in which he took the Class Prize. In his third year he read Botany and Zoology, taking certificates at the advanced level. He did so well in the latter that he was accepted for a course in Entomology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, under the famous Professor H. Maxwell Lefroy 1924-1925, which led to his appointment in South Africa as entomologist in the Division of Entomology (now Plant Protection Research Institute) Department of Agriculture, having married Bessie Rankin on 12th December 1925.

He was stationed at Barberton, Transvaal until about 1932, being engaged with cotton insect problems, when he went for a year to Pretoria where the initial work on biological control of Cactus was carried out. From 1933 to 1934 he was stationed at Graff Reinet, Cape Province, where he undertook detailed investigations on *Cactoblastis cactorum*, *Dactylopius opuntiae*, and other imported Cactus insects. At the end of 1944 this laboratory was closed, and he was transferred to Port Elizabeth, Cape Province, as Eastern Cape Entomologist. His official projects there concerned timber insects (*Holotrupes bajulus*, *Cryptotermes brevis*, and others), Forest insects, Cactus insects, and those affecting agriculture in the region.

He lost his wife in 1961 and remarried a boyhood friend, the widowed Mrs Ethel Habershon of Northern Ireland, in November 1962. In 1963 he retired, and resided in several places including Wilderness, C.P., Hilton, Natal, and then he returned to the United Kingdom, residing for a time at Crail, Fife. This return proved to be a sad mistake; the exposed position of his home at Crail was too much for him, and after failing to find more suitable quarters, he decided to return to South Africa, but by that time, his health was suffering.

While in Scotland, he donated his collection to The Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, and this included much interesting material derived from his work. He and his wife returned to Port Elizabeth in 1971. Not long after his return to Port Elizabeth his condition worsened, and finally he went into hospital, where he died on 7th October 1973.

I had maintained a sporadic correspondence with him over many years and was delighted to have the opportunity for meeting him and his wife when they were passing through London on their return journey to Africa, and I found him to be the delightful personality described by his friends.

J. S. Taylor wrote many papers and notes, including five series of papers entitled "Notes on Lepidoptera of the Eastern Cape Province", published in the *Journal of the Entomological Society of South Africa* between 1949 and 1965, and he was elected Vice President of that society on several occasions. He published many other papers in that journal, and also in *The Entomologist* and *The Entomologist's Record*, mostly on aspects of the life histories of various African Lepidoptera, but also on some of the interesting habits of various African bees: many were accompanied by excellent photographic illustrations.

J. S. Taylor was also a keen ornithologist and contributed several papers on the subject: a grant from the C.S.I.R. enabled him to publish a monograph "Notes on the Birds of Inland Waters in the Eastern Cape Province, with special Reference to the Karoo" in *The Ostrich* (28(1) Jan. 1957).

To his widow and to his sister, we offer our very sincere sympathy, together with our assurance that we too share some of that grief, for the entomological world has indeed lost a prominent worker and a loveable personality. The kind assistance of friends and relations in supplying information on Mr Taylor's career is evidence of his very great popularity. —S.N.A.J.

Current Literature

A Survey of the Macro-Lepidoptera of Croydon and North-East Surrey by L. K. and K. G. W. Evans. 136 pp. (including index, 9 pp), folding map and 24 distribution maps, 1973. £1 (this forms *Proc. Croydon nat. Hist. Sci. Soc.*, XIV: 273-408).

The compilers state their prime object has been to produce an account of the distribution of the species within the limits of the survey, and this they have ably achieved. Broadly speaking, their survey is the outcome of a search for all records of Macro-lepidoptera observed in the area since 1950, and of a critical examination of these records together with the addition of much material based on their own field-work.